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# THE CELTIC SOCIETY,

OR

## IRISH HISTORICAL AND LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

*(From the original Prospectus, 1847.)*

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“THE Materials for Irish History, although rich and abundant, have hitherto been only to a small extent available to the student. The few accessible authorities have been so often used, and the works compiled from them are so incomplete, that the expectation of any History worthy of the Country has been generally deferred, under the conviction that vast additions must be made to our stock of available materials before any adequate work of that kind can be produced.

These materials consist of Manuscripts in the Irish, French, Latin, Italian, and English languages,—of the architectural and monumental remains still spared to us,—and of the numerous vestiges of arms, implements, golden ornaments, and other articles in use among our ancestors, evidencing their skill in workmanship and their advancement in civilization. Many of these are in England, or scattered over the Continent; many, happily, are at home.

In recent times the earnestness displayed in other departments has excited throughout the Country a strong wish to become acquainted with objects which possess so much interest for men of cultivated minds; and a desire has sprung up among the people to study for themselves those historic originals, rather than to expect a future historian’s representation of them at second-hand. This wish seems now widely spread and firmly seated in the national mind.

The Irish Archaeological Society, founded on St. Patrick’s Day, 1840, have earnestly labored in the publication of original historic documents, of which twelve volumes are now completed,—all works of great importance, and ably edited; and it is earnestly to be hoped that their useful labors may be long continued, and meet with that public support which they so eminently merit.

However, the field of labor is so large, and long neglect has so increased the necessity for exertion, that it has been thought advisable to establish another Society; the office of which will be to aid in making public and elucidating the valuable and neglected stores of our National literature, to cultivate the study of our native language, the greatest record of the Celtic world, and to watch over the preservation of the monumental and other materials of Irish History.

The success which has attended similar societies, in other countries, affords encouragement to the promoters of this arduous undertaking. England and Scotland have their Roxburgh, Maitland, Bannatyne, Spalding, Camden, Percy, 'Hakluyt,' and Chetham Societies. But France is the country to which it is most important to look for the successful cultivation of History in the present day; and the labors and publications of '*La Société de l'Histoire de France*,' (instituted in 1834,) afford great and encouraging examples.

But this French Association has done nothing which an Irish Society, resting on a broad popular basis, served by willing laborers, and drawing on materials so rich and abundant, may not reasonably hope to emulate.

Ireland has yet Celtic Scholars of ripe and accurate learning, profound and erudite antiquaries, and was never more rich in that wise public spirit which is alive to the honor, and athirst for a true knowledge of the Country.

From archæology this knowledge must come; the genius which has peopled the hills of Scotland once again with the men of the dead past, and made the Norman Conquest familiar to our daily knowledge, drew from such a source. To give back to the imagination the races that have flourished and passed away in our Country is not the work of invention. The historian, the poet, and the artist, must collect from the materials, which the Celtic Society seeks to preserve, the colors that will give life and reality to their labors; and enable them to adorn their Country with great memories and associations, which will make her dearer to her sons, and more honored and interesting in the eyes of the world."

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE CELTIC SOCIETY.

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1847.

*leabhar na g-Ceart,*

OR

THE BOOK OF RIGHTS;

A Treatise on the Rights and Privileges of the ancient Kings of Ireland, now for the first time edited, with Translation and Notes. By John O'Donovan, Esq. M.R.I.A. Prefixed to this volume are the following historical and critical dissertations by the Editor—i. On the various Manuscripts of the Book of Rights. ii. On the Saltair Chaisil, or Psalter of Cashel. iii. On the will of Cathaer Mor and other pieces introduced into *Leabhar na g-Ceart*. iv. On the references to Tomar as King or Prince of the Danes of Dublin. v. On the Tract prefixed to the Book of Rights entitled ‘The Restrictions and Prerogatives of the Kings of Eire.’ vi. On the division of the year among the ancient Irish. vii. On the chariots and roads of the ancient Irish. viii. On Chess among the ancient Irish, (with engravings.) ix. On the Irish text and translation. The large paper copy contains full-length portraits of Archbishop Ussher, Luke Wadding, and Roderick O'Flaherty.

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1848.

CAMBRENSIS EVERUS;

Or Refutation of the Authority of Giraldus Cambrensis, on the History of Ireland, by Dr. John Lynch, (1662) with some account of the affairs of that Kingdom during his own and former times. Edited, with Translation and copious Notes, by the Rev. Matthew Kelly, Royal College of St. Patrick, Maynooth.—Vol. I.

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1849.

MISCELLANY OF THE CELTIC SOCIETY,

EDITED BY JOHN O'DONOVAN, ESQ. L.L.D., M.R.I.A.

CONTAINING

The History of Corca Laidhe, in the County of Cork, from the *Book of Leacan*; with a map showing the ancient boundaries. The History of the Race of Lughaidh, son of Ith. Of the Race of Aenghus, son of Maicniadh, son of Lughaidh, son of Maicniadh. Of the Race of the Gascon

(Gascoyne). Of the Ui Maine. Of the Genealogy of the Ui Duibh-fhleasc, and of the Ui Aenghusa in general. Of the Genealogy of the Race of Aenghus Bulga. Of Aes Coinchinne. Of the Ui Aenghusa. Of the Ui Mic Eirc. Of the Cairbre of Cliach of the Plain. The Genealogy of Ua Conchobhair (O'Conor) of Corca Laidhe Guile. The Genealogy of Ua Baire of Ara. The Hereditary Proprietors of Corca Laidhe. The Mearing of the middle Cantred of O'Cobhthaigh's Territory. The Genealogy of Ua Eidirsceoil (O'Driscol.) The Genealogy of Ua Cobhthaigh. The Genealogy of Uaithne Thire.

Appendix.—Documents relative to Lughaidh Mal. Lughaidh Laidhe and the other Sons. Mac Fhlanachadha or Mac Clancy. The Family of Dun-Cairbre. Pedigree of O'h-Eidirsceoil or O'Driscol. On the Topography of Corca Laidhe [By the Rev. John Quarry, Rector of Clonakilty]. Extracts from Records relative to the Territory of Corca Laidhe. Remarks on the preceding Tract.

Poem on the Battle of Dun, (Downpatrick,) A.D. 1260, by Gilla-Brighde Mac Conmhidhe, with remarks by the Editor. Illustrated with a fac simile engraving of the seal of Brian O'Neill, lately found at Beverley, in Yorkshire.

Docwra's Tracts—i. His Relation of Service done in Connacht, by Sir Richard Bingham, (1586). ii. Narration of the Services done by the Army ymployed to Lough-Foyle, vnder the leadinge of Mee Sir Henry Docwra Knight, Charles Lord Mountjoy being then (1599) Lord Deputie (afterwards Earle of Deuonshire and Lord Lewetenant) of Ireland. Togeaither with a Declaration of the true cause and manner of my coming away and leaving that place. Written in the sommer 1614, and finished the first of September the same year. With Notes.

Appendix.—I. Documents relative to the O'h-Eidirsceoils (O'Driscols)—i. Eoin Masach Ua Maethagain's poem ; A.D. 1508. ii. Tadhg, son of Diarmuid Og O'Dalaigh's poem, on the death of Sir Fингhin O'h-Eidirsceoil; A.D. 1614. iii. Fearfasa O'Cainte's poem, on Conchobhar O'h-Eidirsceoil and his wife Eibhilin; A.D. 1617. iv. Donnchadh O'Fuathail's poem, on the death of Sir Fингhin O'h-Eidirsceoil and his son Conchobhar; A.D. 1619. v. Excerpta; Notices of Corca Laidhe, and of the family of O'h-Eidirsceoil, with Extracts from the Harl. MSS in the British Museum. II. Fearghal Og Mac an Bhaird's poem on the O'Canes (O'Cathain) and the Battle of Dun, A.D. 1260.

Various Readings in the Corca Laidhe, as found in the Book of Baile an Mhuta, compared with the text in the Book of Leacan.

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The succeeding volumes of *CAMBRENSIS EVERUS*, and other important works, are in preparation.

*Report of the Council to the Annual General Meeting of the Celtic Society, held on the 21st of February, 1851.*

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When the Council presented their last Report to the Society, on the 26th of February, 1850, they thought themselves justified in promising the speedy completion of the volume for 1849. They regret that they are only able to-day to lay that volume before you; but they feel confident that its size and importance will be their justification for those delays which arose from various unforeseen causes. Had the completion of the “**MISCELLANY**” been in the least hurried, its contents would be less valuable and less interesting than they now are. Nevertheless, the Council trust that the arrangements they have made for future work will secure the Society against the recurrence of the delay on this occasion found unavoidable.

The “**MISCELLANY**” now before you forms a volume of nearly 500 pages, which may still be obtained on payment of the subscription (£1 for large paper, or 10s. for small paper copies.) It contains, as promised in the Report of the Council last year, the following important documents which are fully illustrated from all accessible sources by John O’Donovan, Esq. L.L.D.

- I. A treatise from the ‘*Book of Leacan*,’ on the ancient history and topography of a portion of the county of Cork with an account of the family of O’h-Eidirsceoil or O’Driscoll. This district (*Corca Laidhe*), never having been before noticed at length by our historical antiquaries, is illustrated by a map showing the ancient boundaries, for which the Society is indebted to the Rev. John Quarry, Rector of Clonakilty.
- II. An historical poem on the Battle of Downpatrick, A.D. 1259, by the Bard Gilla Brighde Mac Con Midhe.
- III. An account of Sir Richard Bingham’s services against the Bourkes in Connacht, in the reign of Elizabeth, from a manuscript in the Ordnance Office.
- IV. A very in-

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teresting autobiography, written by the first baron of Culmore, and entitled "A Narration of the services done by the Army employed to Loughfoyle, under the leading of mee Sir Henry Doe wra, Knight, Charles Mountjoy being then Lord Deputie (afterwards Earl of Deuonshire and Lord Lewetenant) of Ireland, togeather with a declaration of the true cause and manner of my coming away and leaving that place. Written in the summer, 1614, and finished the first of September the same year." The volume also contains five original Irish poems and translations, selected by Mr. Eugene Curry, from the MSS. in the Library of the University of Dublin, &c.

Since the last general meeting the Society has profited by the accession of the following twenty-four new members, besides the subscriptions of the Library of the University of Edinburgh, and the Library of the Writers of the Signet, Edinburgh.

The Right Rev. M. Blake, Bishop of Dromore.  
The Rev. Henry Beardwood, Maynooth,  
Thomas Boylan, Esq., Drogheda.  
His Excellency the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.  
Lord Cloncurry, Blackrock, Dublin.  
Earl of Cawdor, Llandovery, Wales.  
Richard Carroll, Esq., Fermoy.  
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The O'Driscoll, R.W.C., Plymouth.  
The Rev. J. O'Laverty, Maynooth.  
The Rev. P. Russell, Irish College, Lisbon.

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The Rev. D. W. Stevenson, Leith, Scotland.

The Right Rev. C. Thirlwall, Bishop of St. David's, Wales.

George Waters, Esq., Dublin.

Besides the subscriptions of the above new members, the Society has also received the life composition (£10) subscription of nine members.

Having so far reported the progress for the past year, the Council desires to call attention to the very large quantity of valuable matter which has been placed in the hands of the members of this Society, in return for their subscriptions for the first three years, to an extent which far exceeds anything accomplished by any similar Society at so small a rate of subscription as we, at the beginning, resolved on. When that low rate of subscription (there being, let it be remembered, *no entrance fee*,) was determined on in undertaking works of such magnitude, and selecting a form of printing so beautiful, the principle relied on for success was, the combined support of very large numbers; and those who projected the Celtic Society did not hesitate to count on such support. It would be needless now to recall to mind all the distressing circumstances under which our Country has labored during the years of the Society's existence; for those circumstances will at once occur to every one as supplying ample explanation for the partial disappointment which we have met with. It is, indeed, a matter of congratulation that we have been able to come out safe from the ordeal of these times; and that we have done so is owing to the generous conduct of one of our members. The abstract of accounts which will be laid before the Society appended to this Report, will explain the details of our past difficulties, as well as our present satisfactory position; and the Council desire to let those accounts speak for themselves.

They think it right, however, to state candidly to the Society that the result of the first two years' expenses, including the cost of the original establishment of the Society, combined with a support so much less at first than had been anticipated, was, that heavy debts were incurred, which must necessarily have put an end to the efficiency, if not to the existence, of the Society, had not steps been taken on the

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commencement of our third year to prevent their increase and to provide for their reduction. The effect of those steps will be best understood by comparing the size and cost of the large "MISCELLANY" produced for 1849, and now laid before the Society, with the accounts respecting the similar publication for 1847, with which, as an inexperienced body we commenced our labors. We have not only produced this volume, but we have besides paid off no small portion of the debts incurred on account of the former volumes, but in doing so the Council made a provision by which they bound themselves not again to encroach on the receipts of any year for past liabilities, till the expenses of the works undertaken for that year should have been paid. That resolution will, in future, effectually preserve us from exceeding our income, and, therefore, from ever again being compelled to have recourse to the measures we have taken during the past year. Those means were, however, determined on, because we felt they were *necessary*. The resolution was equally advisable because the confidence of members can only be secured by the conviction that further subscriptions will be invested productively and will bring their full fruit within a reasonable time.

The Council in resolving to spare the funds of the present and future years as much as possible, have, in the first place, devoted to the payment of past liabilities, the amount of the life composition subscription above referred to. They have, in the second place, resolved to make the publications of those first two years bear as much as possible of their expenses. With this view, they have after much deliberation determined to permit future members paying for the current year to buy those volumes—namely, the *Book of Rights* and the first volume of *Cambrensis Eversus*, at the respective rates of 10s. each for large and 5s. for small paper copies—thus reducing them to future members one-half. The proceeds of this arrangement would, however, have but slowly contributed to release the Society from the balance of its liabilities. But this difficulty has also been removed. Mr. W. E. Hudson, to whose zeal, ability, and knowledge, the Society already owes chiefly, if not its existence, at least much of the reputation it has hitherto acquired, has again come forward to put a finishing stroke to his work

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by finally setting the Society to-day on a strong and firm foundation. He has taken on himself to discharge the balance of your debt for the first two years, and to take in exchange a corresponding number of copies of the books of those years at the value now placed on them for future members, consenting to trust to gradual repayment by the sale of those books under the reduction just referred to.

While the Council, with the deepest sense of the obligation we are all under to Mr. Hudson, and in the expression of which they only anticipate the Society at large, congratulate the members upon this termination of their difficulties, they feel bound to remind them that this alteration of price in the past volumes is for once only. The resolution under which the expenditure of the Society *must* in future be kept within the income of the year prevents the possibility of our being again compelled to deviate from the principle of selling the books published by the Society except in return for the full subscriptions received; and, as they will never again be compelled to do so, they need hardly assure the Society that the original plan will in future be inflexibly adhered to, and that the present and forthcoming publications shall not at any time, while the Society exists, be attainable save by members paying regularly the full subscription settled by our rules.

That subscription is extremely small, but the Council feel persuaded it will be found sufficient. It is impossible, however, to undertake publications with the regularity and frequency which we should all desire unless the Council know, towards the commencement of each year, what income they may depend upon. A large number of members is necessary, to enable us to do much; but, under our present arrangements, we shall do far more, with any respectable support, than has ever been accomplished at so low a cost. The printers at present employed for the Society supply us with creditable work at rates extremely low, and the Council has so limited its other expenses that not a pound will be lost to the Society. Their calculations, and the experience of the expenses of the present volume (1849,) enable them to declare, that so small a support as that of *two hundred* one pound subscribers annually will be sufficient to secure the distribution among them each year of a volume so large as the present, and

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that any extension of numbers beyond that amount will be attended by a corresponding increase of the product in books of equal value and beauty. The accounts will be published each year, and the Council believe that a simple statement of what they are doing and can do will form the best appeal for that support, which they are persuaded the Society will eventually obtain wherever it is made properly known. They would, therefore, earnestly urge on every member the necessity of bringing under the notice of all his friends the existence, the objects, and the past performance of the Celtic Society, and the statement embodied in the present Report.

*Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure of the Celtic Society for the years 1846-7-8.*

DR.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
To cost of producing the "Book of Rights," and current expenses of the Society for the years 1846-7, ...	397 14 5	By amount of Annual Subscriptions received for the year 1846-7, ...	291 10 0
— cost of producing "Cambrensis Eversus," Vol. I. and current expenses for the year 1848, ...	... 429 13 9	— amount of Ditto for the year 1848, ...	176 0 0
		— Do. Life Subscriptions, ...	90 0 0
		— Interest on Cash lodged in Bank, ...	3 3 8
		— portion of Subscriptions received for the year 1849, and allocated to the liquidation of arrears on the year 1848, ...	28 0 9
		— Sale of Books for the years 1847-8, ...	238 13 9
			£827 8 2

(Signed,) *John Edward Pigot,*

*Treasurer.*

# THE CELTIC SOCIETY.

MDCCLXI.

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The books are delivered *gratis* at the residences of Subscribers in Dublin, and in towns in which Local Agents are appointed.

The Annual Reports of the Society may be had *gratis*, from MESSRS. HODGES AND SMITH, from the Assistant Secretary, 9, Anglesea-street, Dublin, or from any of the Local Agents.

Persons desirous of becoming Members are requested to communicate with the Secretary, or Treasurer, at 104, Grafton-street, or 96, Lower Leeson-street, Dublin.